

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

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Application No.: New US National Stage of PCT/JP00/04898

Filed: February 20, 2001

Docket No.: 108650

For: GLASS PLATE MANUFACTURING METHOD, GLASS PLATE  
MANUFACTURING APPARATUS, AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DEVICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 3-5, 7-8, 10 and 14 as follows:

3. (Amended) The glass plate manufacturing method according to claim 1,  
wherein the sheet glass subjected to slow cooling exhibits a widthwise temperature  
distribution such that the surface area has a lower temperature than the edge areas.

4. (Amended) The glass plate manufacturing method according to claim 1,  
wherein the strain reduction processing is carried out based on the strain distribution in the  
post-molding glass plate measured in advance using the optical heterodyne method.

5. (Amended) The glass plate manufacturing method according to claim 1,  
wherein the strain reduction process comprises a heat treatment that forms a prescribed  
temperature distribution in the widthwise direction of the sheet glass after the molding is  
reduced when the sheet glass after molding is subjected to slow cooling by means of the heat  
treating unit.

7. (Amended) The sheet glass manufacturing method according to claim 5,  
wherein the heat treatment is a process in which the temperature distribution that is formed,  
in the widthwise direction of the sheet glass, by the heat treating unit for heating the sheet